

SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGISTS



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**SDAG
Announcements**

SDAG MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, October 21st, 2026

6:00 pm - Social Hour | 7:00 pm - Dinner | 8:00 pm – Program

LOCATION:

[Sufi Mediterranean Cuisine](#)

5915 Balboa Ave
San Diego, CA 92111

SPEAKERS:

Wes Daskin & Geoff Cromwell

With the United States Geological Survey (USGS)

TOPIC:

**"LESSONS LEARNED AND REPORTS FROM
THE SAN DIEGO HYDROGEOLOGY PROJECT"**

DINNER: Mediterranean Buffet with Vegetarian options

COST: Member \$55.00 | Non-Member \$65.00 | Student \$25.00

RESERVATIONS:

Make & Pay your reservation online through the SDAG website,
before **6PM WEDNESDAY, October 14th**



[Click Here!
For Directions](#)

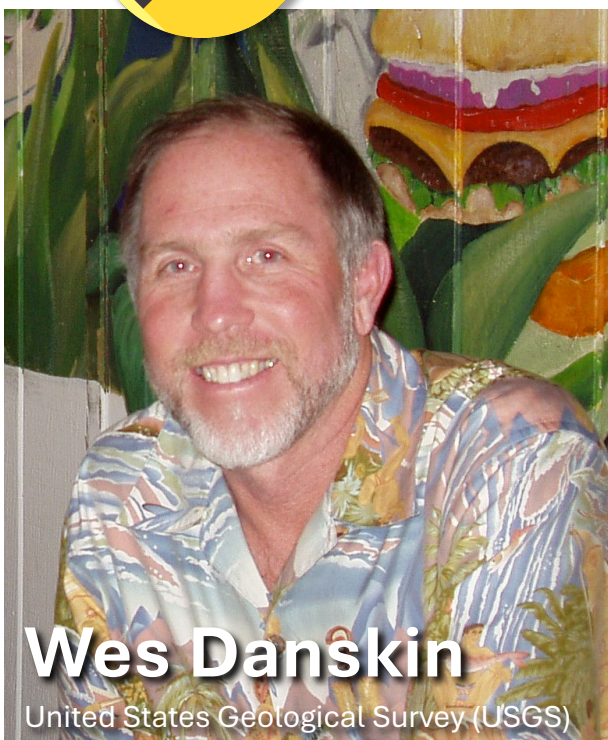


[Click Here!
For Reservations](#)

Please note, all meeting reservations require online pre-payment due to venue costs, venue contracts, and loss of money due to no shows. Refunds cannot be processed after the registration deadline.



Meet Our | Speakers & Topic



Wes Danskin

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Wes Danskin is a retired senior Research Hydrologist for the United States Geological Survey, who lived and worked mostly in southern California.

Mr. Danskin obtained a Bachelor of Arts in geology from Carleton College and a Master of Science in applied hydrogeology from Stanford University.

For 45 years, Mr. Danskin applied and taught water-management techniques throughout the United States, and in several foreign countries.

For 25 years, Mr. Danskin led the USGS San Diego Hydrogeology project, which is providing the foundational geologic and hydrologic information in the San Diego–Tijuana area [<http://ca.water.usgs.gov/sandiego>]. Results of this study are being used to develop additional local water supplies, in particular brackish groundwater that is being desalinated and distributed for municipal use.

Mr. Danskin's publications include both short journal articles on new research findings and lengthy archival-quality comprehensive hydrogeologic reports.

More information about Mr. Danskin can be found at <http://ca.water.usgs.gov/bios/wdanskin.html>; his project webpages include: <http://ca.water.usgs.gov/sandiego>; <http://ca.water.usgs.gov/sanbern>; <http://ca.water.usgs.gov/owens>; <http://ca.water.usgs.gov/temecula>.



Geoff Cromwell

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Geoff Cromwell is a Research Geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) California Water Science Center. He earned his PhD in 2014 in Earth Sciences from Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego. He joined the USGS full-time in 2015 after a brief career as an Adjunct Professor at Occidental College (Los Angeles, CA). Geoff's field of expertise is 3D hydrogeologic characterization of aquifer systems. He integrates geologic, hydrologic, and geophysical data to better understand hydrogeologic processes in and between groundwater basins in California and the nation. For the San Diego Hydrogeology project, Geoff is technical lead for development of the 3D geologic framework, and he recently took over as project lead following Wes Danskin's retirement from the USGS. Geoff lives in San Luis Obispo, California with his family.



Meet Our | Speakers & Topic

LESSONS LEARNED AND REPORTS FROM THE SAN DIEGO HYDROGEOLOGY PROJECT

What is new with the San Diego Hydrology project? Tonight, we will give you an update on recent reports (data, gravity, hydraulics, geochemistry), and list a few lessons learned from our 25-year-long synthesis of the geology and hydrology of the greater San Diego-Tijuana area. Other highlights include initial planning for a second groundwater desalination facility based on our work in the coastal Otay River area. And, yes, we will allocate lots of time to answer your questions about how you can use our millions of data and many findings.



Wes Daskin explaining drill data to SDSU students.



Geoff Cromwell researching paleomagnetism of San Diego cores.

Background: In 2001, the USGS began the San Diego Hydrogeology project, which is composed of several interrelated studies, to map and to better understand the geology and water resources of the greater San Diego-Tijuana area. The overall USGS San Diego Hydrogeology project is complex and includes installation of 80 wells at 16 multiple-depth, monitoring-well sites to depths of as much as 2,658 feet; collection of more than 31 million water-level measurements; collection and analysis of about 1,200 water samples to define the quality of surface water and groundwater; mapping surficial and subsurface geology; measurement of hydraulic properties of sediment and rock; development of a three-dimensional geologic framework model that maps the location and thickness of geologic formations throughout the coastal aquifer; and development and calibration of a regional hydrologic model that simulates surface-water and groundwater flow throughout the entire study area, from the end of the last glacial maximum 20,000 years ago to present. For more information, refer to the project website (<https://ca.water.usgs.gov/sandiego>).



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello SDAG Members,

As we move into the fall, I am excited about our forthcoming meetings. Our Annual Field Trip was a sell out!

A special thank you to our Vice President Jasmine Peach for all of the hard work and effort for the Annual Field Trip titled: **Southern Owens Valley: Faults, Fortunes, and Forgotten Shores**. A special thanks goes out to SDSU's Dr. Rafael Almeida for his insight into this area. What an awesome Field Trip, I learned so much more about the area and getting to visit and tour the Cerro Gordo Mine was a highlight of the trip. It would have not been possible without all that helped contribute to this event, the Field Trip Committee Dave Bloom, Monte Murbach, and Chuck Houser, along with the assistance of the officers and Diane Murbach. Also, thanks to John Teasley who videotaped the Field Trip, so check our website to view the recordings!

Looking ahead, our next meeting will be held on **October 21**. We are excited to welcome **Wes Danskin (USGS, Retired)** as our featured speaker. Wes will share highlights from his research in the San Diego Tijuana Valley area, including the 20+ year groundwater study. I encourage everyone to attend what promises to be another engaging and informative presentation. Also, I am excited since this is a joint meeting with San Diego Environmental Professionals. I hope this is the first of many joint meetings with their organization.

Our October meeting will once again be held at **Sufi Mediterranean**. I look forward to enjoying another evening of great food, stimulating conversation, and the opportunity to reconnect with fellow members. Please remember to register and pay in advance through PayPal using a credit card, debit card, or bank account. **Reservations must be received no later than October 14th.**

One of the most meaningful investments SDAG makes is supporting the next generation of geoscientists. As mentioned previously, **Shannon O'Dunn** has once again demonstrated her commitment to our profession by renewing her sponsorship with a generous **\$4,000 donation** dedicated to the **2026 Student Scholarship Awards**. Her continued generosity will help us provide scholarships and educational opportunities for students pursuing careers in the geosciences. SDAG is also contributing \$4,000 for a total of \$8,000 in scholarships this year. The attached application has been sent to universities. This flyer can be added to the newsletter so students know who to contact. The application deadline is **October 26th**. See the attached flyer for more details.

As discussed during our April meeting, we have also launched a dedicated **Scholarships** page on the SDAG website. Students are encouraged to visit the page to learn more about upcoming scholarship opportunities. For members who wish to give back to the profession, supporting the scholarship program is one of the most meaningful ways to invest in the future of geology and help develop tomorrow's geoscience leaders.

Thank you for your continued support of SDAG and for helping make our organization such a vibrant and welcoming professional community. I look forward to seeing many of you at our October meeting and throughout the remainder of the year as we continue to promote geology, education, and professional collaboration throughout the San Diego region.

Also take note of the upcoming opportunity to visit the Ocean View Mine in Pala on **November 7**. It is a great opportunity to see the mine and look for tourmalines! See the attached flyer from Jim Anderson.

If you were unable to attend one of our past meetings, I encourage you to visit the SDAG website and watch the presentation under **"Recordings of Past Meetings."** As always, my sincere thanks go to our officers, board members, and Carolyn for the countless hours they dedicate behind the scenes to make these meetings and programs possible.

Wishing you and your families a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable remainder of the year!

Mike Palmer
2026 SDAG President



2026 Upcoming Meetings

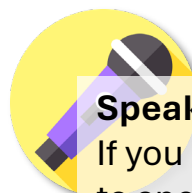
DATE	SPEAKERS & TOPICS
October 21 st	Wes Danskin, USGS retired speaking on “Geology and Water Resources of the San Deigo – Tijuana Area”
November 18 th	Joint meeting with AEG Inland Empire Section
December 16 th	Annual Holiday Meeting at San Diego History Museum with Tom Demere as Speaker
January 2027	TBA
February 2027	TBA

2026-2027 SDAG MEMBERSHIP

Renew or become a new SDAG Member

2027 Member Dues are coming up!

[On-line Payment \(\\$30 Member; \\$10 Student\)](#) or Bring [FORM](#) to Meeting



Speakers For 2027 Meetings

If you or someone you know would like to speak at an upcoming meeting contact one of our officers!

NEW JOB LISTING

NAVFAC SOUTHWEST SEEKING REMEDIAL PROJECT MANAGERS

NAVFAC Southwest is seeking qualified candidates for **Remedial Project Manager (RPM)** positions within its **EV3 Restoration and BRAC teams** in San Diego. These interdisciplinary positions may be filled by either **Environmental Engineers or Physical Scientists** at the **GS-11 or GS-12** grade level, depending on education and specialized experience.

This is a great opportunity for environmental and geoscience professionals interested in federal environmental restoration and remediation work.

Open Positions: GS-11/12 Physical Scientist; GS-11/12 Environmental Engineer

For additional information, contact **Hiphil S. Clemente, EV4 Hiring Business Line Facilitator, NAVFAC Southwest**, at hiphil.s.clemente.civ@us.navy.mil or (619) 705-5525. GS11_12 RPM PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

View the job announcements:

[Physical Scientist – GS-11/12](#) [Environmental Engineer – GS-11/12](#)

For more Job listings check out our page: <https://www.sandiegoeologists.org/Jobs.html>



GET TOGETHER IN THE FIELD

PALA MINING DISTRICT

Join us for a guided tour of the Ocean View Mine

NOVEMBER 7, 2026

Join SDAG and other Southern California gem, mineral, and geology organizations for a visit to the **Ocean View Mine at Pala**. Participants will have the opportunity to tour the underground mine and dig through recently excavated material, and **you can keep anything you find!**

Check in begins at **12:30 p.m.**, with the mine tour and digging scheduled from **1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** The cost is **\$60 per person, cash only**, collected at check in.

Participants should bring plenty of water and any food they may need. Sturdy shoes, gloves, a hat, sunscreen, shovels, and screens are recommended. Restroom facilities are available. No animals are permitted, and participants must be **older than 13 years of age**.

Preregistration is strongly recommended.

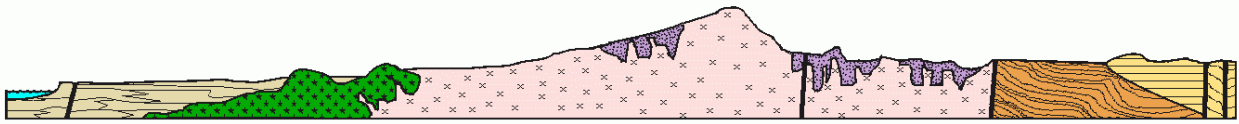
Participants must complete the accompanying liability waiver and submit it to **Jim Anderson** by mail or email. **Do not send payment with the waiver and do not send the waiver directly to the Ocean View Mine.** Those who arrive without preregistering may not be accommodated.

Registration Contact:

Jim Anderson
1123 Tylee Street
Vista, CA 92083

Email: jnanderson1@gmail.com





SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGISTS (SDAG)

2026 SDAG SCHOLARSHIPS

Annual Awards for Outstanding Research in Geological Sciences

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN – [deadline 5pm Monday October 26, 2026](#)

SDAG is formally requesting nominations for the two scholarship programs (General and Walawender). The request is being sent by email to geology and related science departments in San Diego County. Nomination letters and research abstracts need to be received by the SDAG Scholarship Coordinator by 5pm Monday October 26, 2026.

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students: Contact your research advisor to determine if your research qualifies for nomination.

Advisors: Submit a letter of nomination and the student's research abstract directly to the two SDAG

Scholarship Coordinators: Dr. Anne Sturz: asturz@sandiego.edu and Sue Tanges: s.tanges@att.net

EVALUATION AND AWARDS - Awards typically range from \$1,000–\$4,000

The total annual SDAG funding will be divided among selected awardees based on the following criteria:

- *Degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate geoscience students performing geologic research in the geosciences.*
- *Quality of the advisor's nomination letter addressing relevant geoscience courses, academic performance in coursework and research, and the outstanding nature of the research.*
- *Quality and clarity of the students research abstract that includes the specific research question, significance of the study, the study goals, methods used in the study, key results, interpretations, and conclusions.*
- *The student should also describe the extent of their own fieldwork and explain how the work relates to geoscience research. Did the student perform the sampling, fieldwork, lab work and research, or rely on someone else's work for data acquisition?*
- *To be considered for the Walawender Scholarship Fund, describe if the work relates to hard rock terrain.*
- *Awardees are provided a copy of the SDGS General or Walawender Scholarship Fund Charter describing how the award monies may and may not be used. The Scholarship Fund is intended to pay direct costs: tuition, fees, books, supplies, equipment, room and board, travel, and research.*
- *Awards will be presented at the December 16, 2026 SDAG Meeting held at the San Diego Natural History Museum. Awardees should attend to receive their check if possible, and will receive a complimentary dinner meeting.*
- *Award recipients are expected to present their research findings at a 2027 Spring SDAG meeting.*

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A primary function of SDAG is to support academic opportunities in geology and related sciences. The by-laws of the San Diego Geological Society (SDGS dba SDAG) specify the support of academic opportunity ranging from elementary through graduate levels. The SDAG scholarship program has supported academic research in higher education by awarding scholarships annually to students from two-year and four-year undergraduate and master's level programs. Annual awards are made possible by donations from our dedicated SDAG membership.

Resources: SDAG Website: <https://www.sandiegoeologists.org/Scholarships.html>

CALL FOR PAPERS

Still Accepting Contributions to the
2027 Guidebook
Southern Owens Valley:
Faults, Fortunes, and Forgotten Shores

SDAG invites anyone interested to contribute to the official **2027 Guidebook** covering the geology, mining history, and cultural history of **southern Owens Valley, including the Inyo Mountains, Cerro Gordo Mining District, Lone Pine fault, and Owens Lake area.**

We welcome contributions from all geology-related disciplines, as well as mining and cultural history of the region.

Topics may include:

structural geology, geomorphology, hydrogeology, geochemistry, stratigraphy, basin evolution, environmental geology, and any related subjects or disciplines.

Student contributions are encouraged!

Contributions to the due by January 31, 2027, with publication planned for mid-2027.

Please contact Jasmine Peach for details.
jasmine@sandiegogeologicalsociety.org

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

For the **2027**
SDAG MONTHLY MEETINGS

San Diego Association of Geologists (SDAG) is seeking speakers for our **2027 monthly meetings.**

Share your knowledge with the Southern California geologic community! We welcome presentations on **engineering geology, environmental geology, hydrogeology, geophysics, mineral resources, geologic hazards, GIS, field studies, academic research, career development, and other geology-related topics.**

If you or someone you know would like to present, please contact us.

INTERESTED IN SPEAKING?



Jasmine@SanDiegoGeologicalSociety.org
or contact any SDAG Officer



Learn more at
www.sandiegogeologists.org/



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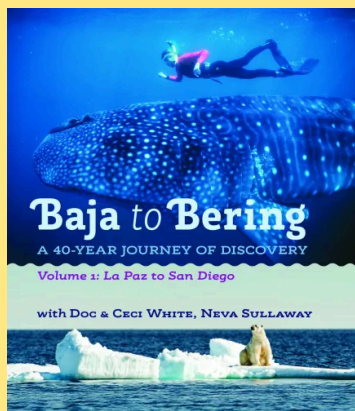
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New for Nature Lovers:



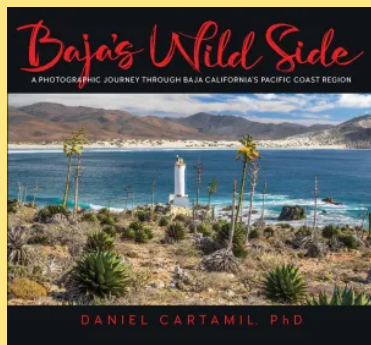
Baja to Bering: A 40-Year Journey of Discovery | Vol. 1: La Paz to San Diego

ISBN: 9781941384763

\$34.95

Baja to Bering Vol 1. is a compilation of four decades at sea, recounting experiences from La Paz, Baja California, to San Diego, California, following Doc and Ceci White's muse—humpback and gray whales. This is not just another whale book; indeed, it is a love letter to the Sea, acknowledging its magnificence, its perilous beauty and all the Sea gives us—oxygen, food, water, medicine, energy, and so much more. In turn, we hope to encourage awareness of the Ocean's mysterious underwater world, much of it still unexplored.

Backlist Favorites:

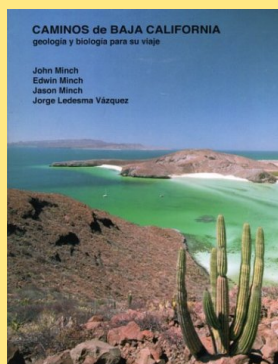


Baja's Wild Side

ISBN: 9781941384329

\$19.95

This book chronicles a fragile paradise of remote landscapes, wildlife, and cultural treasures on the verge of being overtaken by modern civilization. From the high sierra to ancient cave paintings hidden deep in the desert, to the surf-pounded Pacific, readers will discover Baja California's little-known "Wild Side."



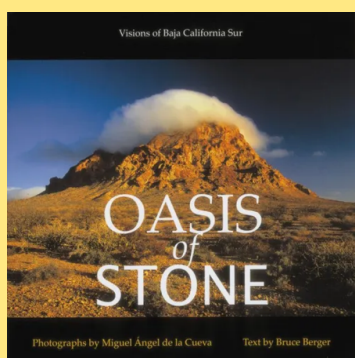
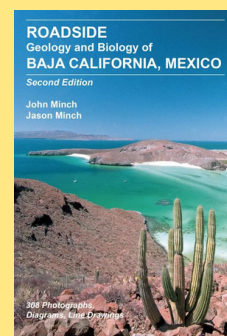
Roadside Geology and Biology of Baja California Caminos de Baja California Geología Y Biología

ISBN: 9780999025109 (ENG), 9780963109026 (SP)

\$24.95 (ENG), \$19.95 (SP)

A stunning guide to the biology and geology of the Baja California Peninsula, illustrated with full-color photographs and written to be accessible to the everyday reader.

Una guía espectacular sobre la biología y geología singular de la península de Baja California, ilustrada con fotografías a todo color y escrita para el lector cotidiano.



Oasis of Stone

ISBN: 9780916251765

\$49.95

Gorgeous full-color photography by award-winning photographer Miguel Ángel de la Cueva, and evocative text by Bruce Berger bring the southern half of Baja California to life. Beginning with its unique geology, and moving on to the coastal, desert, and mountain ecosystems of Mexico's little-known peninsula, this lushly decorated coffee-table book highlights the geology that created this "Oasis of Stone" and the flora and fauna that make their homes here.



2026 | SEPTEMBER ANNUAL FIELD TRIP

SOUTHERN OWENS VALLEY

Faults, Fortunes, and Forgotten Shores





2026 | SEPTEMBER ANNUAL FIELD TRIP



Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this such a wonderful and memorable trip! We truly appreciate everyone who joined us and made the experience so special.

See you next year!



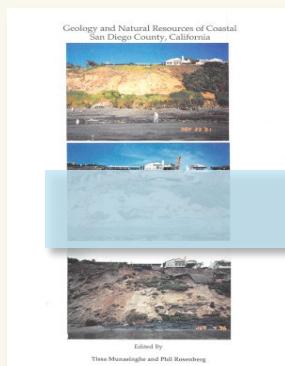


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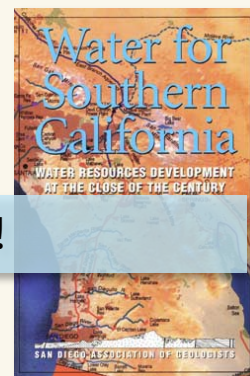
FIELD TRIP GUIDES & RESEARCH REPORTS



Geology And Natural Resources Of Coastal San Diego County, CA (1996)

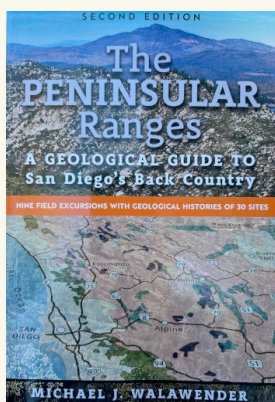


Geology And Geothermal Resources Of The Imperial And Mexicali Valleys (1998)

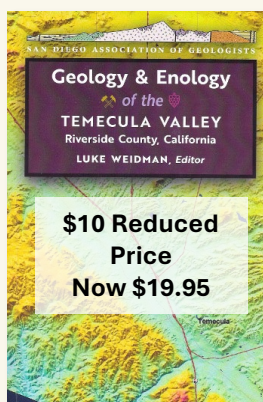


WATER FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: Water Resources Development (1999)

Now available as eBooks!

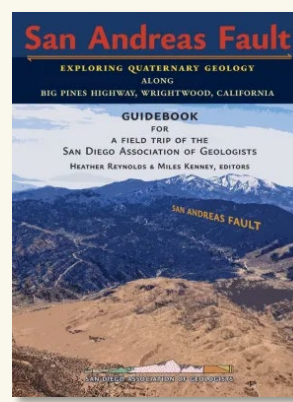


The Peninsular Ranges: A Geological Guide to San Diego's Back Country 2nd Edition



Geology & Enology of the Temecula Valley Riverside County, California 2nd Edition

**\$10 Reduced Price
Now \$19.95**



San Andreas Fault Exploring Quaternary Geology Along Big Pines Highway, Wrightwood, California

FREE GUIDES AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

- [1972 Otay Mesa](#)
- [1977 SW San Diego](#)
- [1978 Coronado Islands, BC](#)
- [1979 San Diego Region](#)
- [1987 Julian Gold](#)
- [1981 Geologic Investigations of the San Diego Coastal Plain](#)
- [1982 Geologic Studies in San Diego](#)
- [1985 Eocene in San Diego](#)
- [1989 Fault Features: La Jolla - Ensenada](#)

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